

NEW SALEM  
SPRINGFIELD Post Rd.

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NEW SALEM

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# Illinois New Salem

## Springfield Post Road

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

# Lincoln's New Salem - Springfield Post Road



Dedication Pilgrimage-February 12, 1976

Commemorating United States Bicentennial

1776-1976



Area for your personal bicentennial message For your company's collection of Lincolniana. "Doc" Temple

This beautiful collectors' envelope commemorating the dedication pilgrimage of Lincoln's New Salem-Springfield Post Road will be carried over the old original route on February 12, 1976, and given a special cancellation on that date only. In addition to the artistic cachet, a first-day postmark will depict young Lincoln sorting mail in front of the New Salem Post Office where he served as postmaster. It was at New Salem that Lincoln, as a young adult, lived from 1831 to 1837 and developed his many brilliant talents.

- As a surveyor, young Lincoln in 1834 laid out several miles of this Post Road south of Athens.
- As a politician, young Lincoln visited with settlers all along this Post Road. In fact, at Athens he made his first campaign speech for re-election to the State Legislature in 1836.
- As a student, young Lincoln tramped this route to borrow law books from his Black-Hawk-War friend in Springfield, Major John Todd Stuart.
- As a Lawyer, young Lincoln in 1841 recovered the "Long Nine" building in Athens for his client, Col. Matthew Rogers.
- As a Riverman, young Lincoln constructed a flatboat for Denton Offutt at old Sangamo Town in 1831. Later, he piloted the steamboat Talisman on the Sangamon River. The Post Road crosses the Sangamon River from New Salem to Springfield at two points.
- As a representative in the General Assembly from Sangamon County, young Lincoln and the other "Long Nine" legislators were banqueted and toasted in 1837 by their local constituents who lived near this Post Road. They were honored in both Springfield and Athens with dinners for their successful efforts in moving the Illinois State Capital from Vandalia to Springfield.
- As the martyred Sixteenth President of the United States, the immortal Lincoln lies buried beside this Post Road where it enters Springfield, Illinois.

This historic bicentennial route will be enjoyed by thousands of traveling Americans and would not have been possible except through personal sacrifice and dedication of the community leaders listed below:

## SPONSORS

Central Illinois Tourism Council, "Mr. Lincoln's Country", Lonnie J. Johns, President  
In the counties of Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Dewitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Greene, Iroquois, Livingston, Logan, McLean, Macon, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Moultrie, Morgan, Platt, Sangamon, Scott, Shelby, Vermilion  
Athens Athletic Association, Charles G. Chate, President  
Illinois Bicentennial Commission, Michael J. Linderman, Executive Director  
Illinois Division of Tourism, Department of B.E.D., Sandy Guettler, Director  
Springfield Convention and Tourism Commission, Lacey B. Brooks, Chairman

## POST ROAD RESOLUTIONS - COUNTIES OF MENARD • SANGAMON - CITIES OF ATHENS • PETERSBURG • SPRINGFIELD

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Chairman of Sangamon County Board: Paul L. Butschenauer

Mayor of Athens: Alfred W. Mason  
Mayor of Petersburg: Harold R. Andreason  
Mayor of Springfield: William C. Telford

## STATE OF ILLINOIS SEVENTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY - SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 53 - OCTOBER 23, 1975

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Senate Minority Leader: William C. Harris  
Speaker of the House: William A. Redmond  
Minority Leader of the House: James R. Washburn

## EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION DANIEL WALKER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS - DECEMBER 19, 1975

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Lincoln's Post Road "Coach and Four" - Saddle Tramp Gap - Bell Family - Athens, Illinois

Lincoln's Post Road "Wagon Train '76'" - Grover Smith Family - Rochester, Illinois

Lincoln's Post Road "Pilgrimage Escort Guard" - 7th Illinois Cavalry Reactivated, Commanding Officer, Col. Harlington Wood, Jr.

(all activities and persons represent Lincoln's Post Road, Inc.)

This list was completed and printed in early 1976 and does not include everyone who worked to make this LINCOLN POST ROAD DEDICATION a lasting success. Abraham Lincoln's toast at the "Long Nine" celebration July 25, 1837, Springfield, Illinois, appropriately expresses the sentiments of the sponsors of the Lincoln's New Salem - Springfield Post Road

"ALL OUR FRISNDS-THEY ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO BE NOW NAMED INDIVIDUALLY, WHILE THERE IS NO ONE OF THEM WHO IS NOT TOO DEAR TO BE FORGOTTEN OR NEGLECTED."



# STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

No celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States would be complete without a fitting tribute to the memory of the man most responsible for preserving this nation when it was threatened with disintegration three-quarters of a century after our War of Independence.

This rural lawyer who left Springfield to head the country in its most troublous times, knew Illinois well. Before he was elected to make its laws he walked over its hills and valleys and surveyed much of the land.

The route of the New Salem to Springfield Post Road that Abraham Lincoln often traversed and which he helped survey has recently been authenticated and will be formally dedicated on his birthday anniversary, February 12.

Recognizing its historical significance, the Seventy-ninth General Assembly in a joint resolution authorized the placing of an appropriate marker each mile along the route. The sign selected, depicting a coach and four horses, will lead travelers past many famous landmarks.

THEREFORE I, Dan Walker, Governor of the State of Illinois, proclaim February 12, 1976, LINCOLN POST ROAD DAY and urge all Illinoisans to participate in ceremonies planned for the day.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,  
this NINETEENTH day of DECEMBER, in the  
Year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred  
and SEVENTY-FIVE, and of the State of  
Illinois, the one hundred and FIFTY-EIGHTH*



*Michael J. Howlett*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Dan Walker*  
GOVERNOR

1776



LINCOLN'S  
NEW SALEM-  
SPRINGFIELD  
POST ROAD  
DEDICATION  
Feb. 12, 1976

Land of Lincoln

1976

ILLINOIS

my summer Illinois license plate  
SS









